Agriculture-Growth

4311. SHRI R. P. GOENKA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the growth of agriculture in the first three years of the Ninth Five Year Plan has fallen behind the target by 30 per cent;

(b) the extent to which the shortfall is due to greater emphasis on subsidies, as opposed to investment in the agricultural sector;

(c) whether Government are proposing to shift from subsidies to investment, in order to stimulate agricultural growth; and

(d) whether Government have any schemes to introduce new technologies, like biotechnology, which would improve total productivity even in arid areas, while reducing dependence on monsoons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE : (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) The targets, production and the percentage shortfall in production of important agriculture crops *vis-a-vis* the corresponding targets in the first three years of the Ninth Plan *viz.* 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below)

(b) and (c) Realization of targets depends on a number of factors such as performance of monsoon, technological developments, managerial skills of farmers, timely application of quality inputs, demand of different agriculture produce etc. The position of subsidies in agriculture and allied sector is regularly monitored and decision is taken after duly taking into account the requirement of the sector, resource availability and other related aspects. However, several steps have been taken recently to increase investment in agriculture. These include additional flows of credit to agricultural sector, additional funds under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and enhanced allocations for rural electrification. All these will help in stimulating agricultural growth.

(d) National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology has initiated a project for isolating new genes which would enhance drought tolerance and productivity of crop plants in arid areas of the country. Besides, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have developed several technologies which can help in improving productivity in the rainfed and arid areas. These technologies include development of improved varieties/hybrids, standardization of agronomic practices for efficient utilization of the inputs, mulching methods, proper irrigation scheduling, application of micro nutrients, bio-fertilizers, amendments, land configuration technologies like raised and sunken beds and water harvesting and ground water recharge methods.

Statements

Targets, Production and Percent fall in Production *vis-a-vis* Targets of Major Crops in 1997-98, 1998-99 & 1999-2000

Million Tonnes

Sl. No.	Crop	1997-98			1998-99			1999-2000		
		Targets	Pro-duction	%Fall in pro-duction over targets	Targets	Pro-duction	%Fall in pro-duction over targets	Targets	Pro-duction	%Fall in pro-duction over targets
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Rice	83.00	82.54	0.55	86.00	86.08	—0.09	86.00	89.48	—4.05
2.	Wheat	70.00	66.35	5.21	74.00	71.29	3.66	74.00	75.57	—2.12
3.	Coarse Cereals	34.00	30.40	10.59	34.50	31.33	9.19	34.50	30.47	11.68
4.	Pulses	15.00	12.97	13.53	15.50	14.91	3.81	15.50	13.35	13.87
5.	Foodgrains	202.00	192.26	4.82	210.00	203.61	3.04	210.00	208.87	0.54
6.	Oilseeds	25.50	21.32	16.39	27.00	24.75	8.33	27.00	20.87	22.70
7.	Sugarcane	280.00	279.54	0.16	300.00	288.72	3.76	305.00	299.23	1.89
8.	Cotton#	14.80	10.85	26.69	14.80	12.29	16.96	15.00	11.64	22.40
9.	Jute & Mesta@	9.75	11.02	—13.03	10.25	9.81	4.29	11.00	10.53	4.27

#-Million Bales of 170 kg. each. @-Million Bales of 180 kg. each.